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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

Traditionally in the United States, monopolies are allowed or granted to incentivize development of infrastructure for the public good. But in such cases the public interest **MUST** be served after the need for a MODEST profit is met, and in most cases that means open access to the infrastructure supported by that monopoly.

The opening of competitive access to ILEC infrastructure in the 1990s was critical to the development of the open Internet we find so critical to all aspects of our society and economy. An economy that has grown immensely only because open access to the Internet enabled the development of entire new industries. The repeal of most of this competitive access at the insistence of those ILECs - who have continued to rake in record profits while failing to deliver on the enhanced services they promised in return - is blatant theft from the American public.

And now the lobbying groups for the biggest telecom companies are asking the FCC to remove what little competitive access to Unbundled Network Elements still exists??

No, the American public will not tolerate more theft by the incumbent telcos. The abusive duopoly they have orchestrated in most of the nation is a drag on our economy, and threatens to throttle the next innovative industries in their cradle. Not to mention how their rate fixing in the wireless markets has made our country a laughing stock among the nations of the developed world.

Past restriction of competition has raised rates dramatically without any compensation for the public. The further restriction being requested now will raise rates further, making it unavailable to Americans of modest means. These changes will make the once vibrant and innovative Internet nothing more than a substitute cable plant for delivering content from one or two vertically integrated providers in your area - at obscene prices.

My professional career and my small businesses in Massachusetts and California over the past three decades have been made possible by access to competitive DSL services, and hopefully soon competitive fiber-based Internet access. And the same is true for millions of other Americans. That represents an incredible benefit to the US economy, and a significant contribution to federal, state,

and local tax bases.

Do not under any circumstances allow the lobbyists to complete their theft of democratic access to information services, and future innovations and industries, from the American people. Keep rules requiring competitive access to Unbundled Network Elements in place! Better still, restore all the competitive access requirements from the Telecommunications Act of 1996, applying them to all transmission plants and technologies!

American consumers and voters are watching you very closely. And we will respond to your actions in the November 2018 elections.

Steve Jones